



CITY OF DANBURY

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

MARK D. BOUGHTON
MAYOR

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September 20, 2004

Honorable Christopher J. Dodd
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Joe Lieberman
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

VIA: FAX & U.S. MAIL

Dear Senators Dodd & Lieberman:

The City of Danbury is experiencing tremendous growth in population with recent immigrants from across the globe, especially from countries like Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. We have quickly discovered most of our new residents from these countries have illegal immigration status and find great difficulty finding employment that will support them and their families.

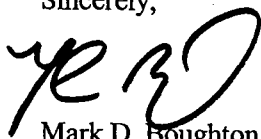
Illegal immigrants bring tremendous strains on local services including law enforcement, illegal apartment enforcement, health care, education and social services. Recently published concerns about carriers of the tuberculosis virus from these countries living in Danbury have local residents very upset with the United States' apparent disregard for enforcing immigration regulations.

We are clearly a community of immigrants in Danbury. Our early ancestors hail from Ireland, Italy, England, Lebanon, Portugal, Germany and several other countries. The difference between our early immigrants up through the late 1970s and today is the proliferation of illegal residents crossing our borders without following the immigration process. We must return our immigration process to a manageable and enforceable system that keeps proper controls in place.

The City of Danbury is feeling the burdens of providing extra services to our newest residents without the financial support of our federal government. Local taxpayers and non-profit donors cannot continue to fund these tremendous costs. We must have action from Congress to assist local governments as we struggle providing services for our newest residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,


Mark D. Boughton
Mayor

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN

CONNECTICUT

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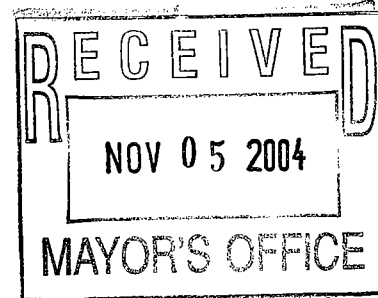
HOME PAGE:

<http://lieberman.senate.gov>

October 19, 2004

The Honorable Mark D. Boughton
Mayor
Office of the Mayor
City of Danbury
Danbury, CT 06810

Dear Mark:



Thank you for contacting me regarding the tremendous costs incurred by residents of Danbury to provide social services for illegal aliens. It is good to hear from you again.

As you may know, I have been very involved in the debate on how to make our borders more secure and prevent further illegal immigration. In light of the inefficiencies of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) exposed by 9/11, Congress, with my support, passed legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which subsumed the duties of the INS. Under DHS legislation, the Directorate of Border and Transportation Security is responsible for the INS's enforcement functions as well as other entities that may play a role in border security. The INS's naturalization and citizenship duties are now handled by the newly created Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services at DHS. The separation of these contradictory functions represented a huge step forward in preventing undocumented aliens from crossing our borders. Nonetheless, I appreciate and understand your concerns about the level of funding for local services like education, health care, and law enforcement with the increased population of illegal aliens.

In consideration of education and health care services extended to illegal aliens that are driving up costs for state governments and increasing state budget deficits, I voted to send an additional \$20 billion appropriation to states to help cover budget shortfalls in an amendment to the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-27), which was passed in May 2003. Ten billion dollars of that amount was specifically earmarked to go to state Medicaid programs. Furthermore, in December 2003, the Senate passed the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-173). This legislation appropriated \$250 million to states to be distributed based on estimates of the number of undocumented aliens residing in the state.

I share your view that, in order to remain secure both politically and economically, we must formulate a sustainable immigration policy and diligently enforce our immigration laws. Please be assured that I am carefully monitoring how communities like Danbury, cope financially with illegal immigrants; and I will continue to do all I can in Congress to assist Connecticut communities.

Sincerely,

Joseph I. Lieberman

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